



Thomas Cario Middle School Band Program

“TOP TEN” FOR INCOMING BAND PARENTS

1. Read the Band Handbook! You and your student will both sign a “statement of responsibility” acknowledging that you have read, and are familiar with, the band requirements and obligations, and the Handbook is THE LAW! Much of what you need to know is explained in detail, and you will find contact information for staff and booster board members for when you do have a question.
2. Provide the band room and the band boosters with correct and complete contact information for you and your band student. PLEASE GIVE US AN E-MAIL ADDRESS! Even if it’s a work address, with over 350 students involved, e-mail is the way we communicate from the band room. We do not send “spam!” We verify and/or correct and/or add to the band calendar, which can change at a moment’s notice. Be sure to frequently visit our website at cariobands.org, which will be our primary source for publishing band information during the school year and summer months. Also check frequently with your student --- Mr. Scott does communicate calendar and schedule changes during class time.
3. Have a “band in-box.” Start with the Band Handbook, and add to it as you receive monthly calendars, quarterly newsletters, event flyers, detail and instruction sheets, fundraising information, student account statements, and weekly mass e-mails, (sometimes more frequent), which will all come to you with the subject line “from the band room.” Do not delete them --- print them and keep them!
4. HOMEWORK REQUIREMENT: Each nine weeks, Mr. Scott will hand out a “pass-off” requirement sheet with music selections and their associated points. These selections must be passed off, either at home using SmartMusic or at school using SmartMusic provided in the practice room. If your child uses SmartMusic, the assessment for each selection, including both the .txt file and the .jpg file, should be printed out and turned in. In the band room, beneath the window to Mr. Scott’s office, there is a table. On the table is a plastic 3-drawer bin, labeled for “6th grade,” “7th grade,” and “8th grade.” This is where the assessments should be placed – make sure your child’s name is on the printed assessment.
5. Rehearsals and concerts outside of the school day are not optional! They are part of the school year, part of the band program, and part of your student’s grade. Athletic practices and events are not excused absences. Concert dates are published with the tentative master calendar in August, and do not change except in extreme circumstances. Before and after school rehearsals for the concerts are also noted on the master schedule, but are changed and added as needed. These rehearsals are limited to what is absolutely necessary, and therefore, are required. (Before and after school rehearsals for 6th graders are generally limited to the weeks immediately preceding a concert or competition.) This is why the monthly calendars and weekly announcements are so critical --- the band schedule is not static --- it changes!
6. Get involved! Come to the Booster Club meetings; find out what’s going on and where we’re going next --- give us your ideas and your feedback on ours! Please volunteer when we put out the call. With so many band families, we should have people coming out of the woodwork to assist whenever needed, but the fact of the matter is, getting help is like pulling teeth. We never ask for more than 2 or 3 hours of your time, and when it comes to concert events, auditions and competitions, and delivery of fundraisers, we need help. We are so grateful when parents step forward --- we get to know you, and you get to know us. So sign up! It’s relatively

painless, you'll meet some great people, you'll learn tons about the band program, and most importantly, you'll be supporting your band student!

7. Support the band fundraisers! Band is expensive, and we must fundraise so that we can keep our band fees at a reasonable level **and** address the equipment needs of our rapidly growing program. Over and above staffing, Charleston County does not fund our program --- WE DO!! When we don't support our own fundraising efforts, our program and our students suffer the consequences, because band is about the full ensemble of students and instruments. It's not enough that Stevie Student has **his** piece of equipment --- in order to maintain the quality of our program, every student needs to have the right equipment, and every section of the band must have full instrumentation. This is a team effort, and we need your help --- FUNDRAISING MATTERS --- LET'S MAKE IT A PRIORITY!
8. Band Fees for the coming school year are \$175 per student, and are due no later than November 20th. There is a \$25 nonrefundable deposit due on or before August 30th. Then, three monthly payments can be made starting September 20th. Your band fees support the day-to-day operating costs of the band program, and fund such things as: band shirts, registration fees for full ensemble events, the audition fee for All-County, All Region, and Solo & Ensemble, registration for the 6th grade Carowinds competition, bus transportation as needed, band room supplies, instruments and equipment, music purchases, supplemental instruction, recognition and awards, and much more. Four major fundraisers are available over the course of the school year to assist families in paying these fees, as well as other band-related expenses.
9. Every band student has a "student account" for keeping track of fees/charges and payments/credits. You will receive a student account statement at several points during the year that will summarize your account activity. These statements can be confusing! **Any time you have a question regarding your student's account, contact the booster treasurer for a translation.** You will have several opportunities over the course of a school year to "build up" your student's account. The more actively you support the band's fundraising efforts, the more likely you are to carry a positive student account balance, which can then be used to pay for band-related activities.

Student accounts may be used to fund the following:

- Band Fees
- All-State Clinic (see band handbook for complete explanation)
- Solo & Ensemble Accompanist Fees (\$15)
- Spring Trip - 6th grade (approx \$80)
- Spring Trip - 7th & 8th grade (approx \$375)
- Percussion Usage Fees (\$35 per year for all percussion students)
- Rental Agreements for program-owned instruments

Student accounts may not be used for:

- Tuxedos - 7th & 8th grade

10. When it comes to turning in money for any reason, please follow these guidelines:

- All payments are payable to "Cario Band Boosters" (please avoid sending cash)
- All payments must be identified as to which student and what purpose on the memo line
- All payments should be in a sealed envelope with student's name and payment purpose
- All payments can either be deposited in the band payment box directly inside Mr. Scott's office door or mailed to Cario Band Boosters, 1121-B Park West Blvd., Box 224, Mt. Pleasant SC 29466

The board members are here to help you solve the mystery of being a new band parent.

If you feel lost, send up a flare --- we'll find you!

2007-08 Band Booster Board:

President	Gwen Stanton	881-2127	<u>president@cariobands.org</u>
President-Elect	Dave and Betsy Gosnell	856-4003	<u>preselect@cariobands.org</u>
VP, Fundraising	Alison Wachowski Angela Byers	884-0929 278-2659	<u>fundraising@cariobands.org</u> <u>fundraising@cariobands.org</u>
VP, Hospitality	Cynthia Ruddy Shary Long	881-1134 388-6406	<u>hospitality@cariobands.org</u> <u>uniforms@cariobands.org</u>
VP, Communications	Kristin Sydow	884-0111	<u>communications@cariobands.org</u>
VP, Comm. Service	Gloria Palmer-Long	881-0309	<u>communityservice@cariobands.org</u>
Treasurers	Ginger Bridges Trisha Montgomery	856-7178 856-0136	<u>treasurer@cariobands.org</u>
Secretary	Karen Seidman	971-4769	<u>secretary@cariobands.org</u>
Band Room	Mr. Scott Mrs. DuPuis	375-4650 375-4650	<u>director@cariobands.org</u> <u>asstdirector@cariobands.org</u>